

W6OTX**W6ARA**

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 67, NUMBER 4, April 2016

K6OTA**K6YQT**

The Official Newsletter of the
Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Celebrating 79 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*



**"K5P DXpedition To Palmyra Atoll
John Miller, K6MM**

John will take us on a journey to one of the rarest and most inaccessible DXCC entities in the world: Palmyra Atoll in the South Pacific.

Bio

John was first licensed as WV2BQJ in 1958 while living in Syracuse, NY. For the last decade, he has focused heavily on DXing, contesting, and recruiting new operators into the hobby. His DXCC total stands at 328 confirmed and he holds 8-Band DXCC.

John was been a member of several DXpedition teams:

Operator: PJ7E (Sint Maarten), K9W (Wake Atoll), K1N (Navassa Island), and K5P (Palmyra Atoll)

Webmaster or Pilot: NH8S (Swains Island), C82DX (Mozambique), FT4TA (Tromelin) and 3GØZC (Juan Fernandez).

John is a Past-President of the Northern California Contest Club, a founding member of the CW Operators' Club, and a current Director of both the Northern California DX Club and the Northern California DX Foundation. He has also served as Co-Chairman of the International DX Convention for 2011, 2013, 2015 and will again for 2017.

In addition to his four grandchildren, John's interests include website design, piano composition, and exploring the back roads of the Bay Area on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Apr 1 | PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto |
| May 6 | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Everyone welcome!
Marty's Home (April Only) |
| June 3 | USS Hornet Tour |
| Apr 20 | |
| May 18 | |
| June 15 | |
| April 30 | |



President's Corner

April 2016

Spring is here and the vernal equinox is past, but that special propagation is still here. I've just returned from the Palm Springs Hamfest, and had an unexpectedly awesome experience on my return trip. And the PAARApink was another great success - let's do it again soon!



It's that time of the year when night and day are balanced, and that seems to make HF ionospheric propagation work better than usual. My own personal theory is that around the equinoxes, there is enough sunlight at reasonable angles to nicely charge the F-1 and F-2 layers. They are the layers that are responsible for most long-distance propagation. The sunlight, though, is still not strong enough to fully charge up the D layer - the one that attenuates HF radi-

(President — Continued on page 6)

Getting to know you

DARRYL PRIESTLY (KI6LDM) hails from Ponca City, OK, the youngest of 3 boys. His father was a radio officer (chip off the ole block?) in the US Navy, which soon took the family to live in San Diego, CA. Unfortunately, it was soon discovered that Darryl had congenital cataracts, and needed surgery, which replaced his lens and pupils. He was only one year old. Consequently, he became legally blind. On the minus side, he had many challenges socially and academically throughout his school years, but his determination and steadfastness were demonstrated in his studies. However, there is a plus side to his disability. He eventually attended San Diego State, with a focus on computer science and math. After college, he joined Oracle, and has been with them for 27 years. Another plus is that his hearing became very good, so watch what you say near him! Just kidding!

During his high school years, a neighbor, who was a scuba instructor, encouraged him to try diving, he accepted the invitation, and has been an active diver ever since. Some of his scuba excursions include: Monterey Bay, San Diego, Mexico, Great Barrier Reef of Australia, Cayman Is, Palao, and his favorite place: Truk Lagoon. I asked him what scuba means to him and he expressed his love of the peacefulness of being underwater, and his enjoyment in



seeing underwater life.

Darryl and his wife, Rodna (KJ6GVQ), of 20 years, enjoy road trips together. They have visited many parts of the US.

His preferred music for listening is classic rock, jazz, and classical. He shared that he once had the pleasure of meeting both Stevie Wonder and Huey Lewis, at their concerts.

I asked Darryl when he became involved in ham radio, and he explained that a co-worker had introduced him to the CERT volunteer program, a few years ago. He and his wife readily joined the Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES), in their area, and discovered that ham radio was , in fact, an vital tool in emergency situations that may happen. Darryl got busy and obtained his Tech License in 2007, and his General, the next year, and finally his “Extra”, in 2011. Way to go, Darryl!

When I asked him how being a ham has impacted his life, he gave me several ways: 1) he likes that it challenges him technically, 2) it has helped him meet other hams, and 3), it is a hobby he has fun with!

Also, it seems he is lucky with lottery tickets as he won 3rd place in the Christmas raffle. Congrats, Darryl!

Diana Lloyd

Mar 16, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

The March Board Meeting was held at the home of Marty Wayne, W6NEV, commencing at 7:41 PM on March 16th, 2016. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (President), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Byron Beck, N6UOB (Dir), and non-Board Member, Joel Wilhite, KD6W (Technical Coordinator), Rick Melrose, K6RDM (Chaplain). A quorum was present.

NOTE: the next board meeting will also be held at Marty's house.

President's Report: Kristen, K6WX, commented about how fun the PAARApink was. Everyone who attended had a great time putting holes in paper targets and having the opportunity to fire a few different guns as well as socialize. The weather cooperated only adding a little moisture to the wonderful BBQ Marty put together. There is interest in holding a second PAARApink in about 6 months. "Its activities like this that make PAARA a 'different' club than others", said Kristen.

Kristen indicated her reserve of stories is doing OK but as always on the lookout for more stories. If you have committed to a story but not submitted it (there are several people out there fitting this category) please put pen to paper or fingers on the keyboard and let your creative juices flow! Do you have any projects, Field Day experiences, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX contacts, or experiences setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? If you have or have not previously drafted that story, now is the time to get a by line of your own in PAARAGraphs and get that story submitted to Kristen for publication. "Remember it is 'home grown' stories that make PAARAGraphs great", she said.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, announced that John Miller, K6MM, will be the April speaker. He will be giving us a talk on the K5P DXpedition.

Marty reminded the board that the next field trip is to the USS Hornet on April 30th at 11AM. Anyone interested in attending this docent lead tour of the ship and having lunch in the officers' mess, is encouraged to visit the PAARA web site before Friday, April 15th and sign up. The link is: paara.org/pages/event-usshornet.html.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, commented that currently there are 190 PAARA members. However there are 39 members who have not renewed for 2016 and will be dropped from the membership in April, thus the more realistic membership total is closer to 151. There will be an extra "reminder" sticker on your copy of PAARAGraphs if you're a member of the "I haven't renewed" group. Remember that PayPal is "open" 24/7/365 so you don't have to wait until the next meeting to renew your membership. There was 1 rejoining member in March.

An email was sent to all club members who have email address in the club roster regarding the Hornet field trip. Some of the addresses are no longer valid thus bounced back. If you didn't receive an email and want to receive future emails from the club, please use the roster update feature in the "members only" area of the PAARA web site, or send an email to paarapay@gmail.com or see me at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, advised the board that the finances are in fine shape. Though there aren't any proceeds from the Flea Market yet, there have been enough other sources of income to balance out the books. He reported that Gary, N6NV, brought some more radios to the last meeting from the Club's huge collection, which takes up most of Gary's basement. Though no radios were sold this month there was interest in a couple. A discussion ensued about how to best reduce the inventory of radios in Gerry's custody. It was unanimously agreed that we'll add a small column to PAARAGraphs to advertise a few radios to increase the exposure. If there still is limited to no interest, there was a discussion on finding a mem-

(Minutes — Continued from page 3)

ber to start listing them elsewhere.

Under Old Business, Marty, W6NEV, mentioned the special order 2016 Field Day shirt is still available for PRE-ORDER ONLY in sizes medium through 3XL. You can order either though the PAARA web site using PayPal or directly from Marty. Remember that this shirt must be pre-ordered in order to receive one. The last day to order is May 13, 2016. Here is the link to order: paara.org/pages/fieldday.html

Jim, K6SV, and Joel KD6W, reported on the most recent work party(s) at the repeater site. The installation of the outside skin of the shack is complete and mostly painted. The next step on the shack is to work on the feed lines and finish painting the shack. Joel made progress on finishing up the equipment racks and getting the repeaters configured. He also reported that the NorCal DMR network is moving from the C-Bridge talkgroup server to the newer and more robust Brandmeister talkgroup server. The change brings additional features to DMR's capabilities like texting.

Under new business, field day was brought up by Marty, W6NEV, regarding the "club's" laptops or lack thereof. The board discussed various options and agreed to investigate the options available. Rebar was "nominated" to look into what choices may be available that would work.

Ron, W6AZ, mentioned a ham who was a past member in good standing of the club that is in need of a wire antenna. The board voted to procure an antenna and ship it to their residence.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Jim Thielemann
 Secretary/membership
 K6SV

Please welcome to PAARA:

Returning member: Stephen Hill, KG6EVZ.

April Raffle Prizes

1st Kenwood TM281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver



- High Power 65W Output
- Large Front Speaker
- Vivid Amber LCD Display with 32-step brightness control
- 200 Memory Channels, plus one call channel

2nd Battery Tender Junior Charger



- Complete 4-step charging program (Initialization, Bulk Charge, Absorption Mode, Float Mode).
- Automatically switches to float / maintenance voltage after fully charging the battery.
- Solid state two color LED indicates stage of charger.
- Reverse polarity protected.

3rd ARRL 2015 Handbook



4th MFJ Dual Clock



5th MFJ 335 BS Mag Mount



6th ARRL Pocket Repeater Directory

7th Bongo Ties



3/4/16 Raffle Prize Winners

Left to Right

- 3rd Prize** Wilko Wilkening / AG6DK / Daiwa CS-201a / Two Position Coax Switch
- 5th Prize** Wilko Wilkening / AG6DK / MFJ Dual Clock
- 7th Prize** Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / Bongo Ties
- 1st Prize** Rob Riley / KI6INR / Kenwood TM-281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver
- 2nd Prize** Leigh Klotz / WA5ZNU / Arrow 2m Yagi Antenna

Not Pictured

- 4th Prize** Steve Sharpe / WB6KIO / Two FRS Radios
- 6th Prize** Ameer Ghoddousi / KK6TMW / Insulators

(President — Continued from page 1)

ation, particularly at lower HF frequencies. In addition, if the D layer is not well charged, it recombines quickly because of the relatively high molecular density of the atmosphere (the D layer is closest to Earth's surface). The result of these effects is that, particularly near sunset, the F layers are still well charged while the D layer is rapidly dissipating. The conditions created by this situation allow for good ionospheric refraction (bending of HF electromagnetic energy) with minimal attenuation. This is why we see enhanced propagation around the vernal and the autumnal equinoxes. It is also why the two major contest seasons are centered on these periods. Whether you're into contesting, DX-ing, or just rag chewing, it's a great time to check out what's going on below 30 MHz.

I'm recently back from the Palm Springs Hamfest. I'm a little vague on how the invite to



Palm Springs Hamfest Agenda on the other side of a window

2nd item on agenda:

**10:30 Kristen McIntre K6WX
The Mighty Transistor**

speak there came, but one of my fellow IOOK VPs is also a member of the Dessert RATS (the sponsoring organization) and we were able to meet there with several other IOOKers to 'assimilate' a new VP. I had a great time giving the talk and chatting with people. [Ed. Note — Kristen's name is indeed misspelled on the agenda above...] While I was there I was invited to speak in Las Vegas (a.k.a. Lost Wages) at the end of April. So, another road trip is on the calendar. On the return trip from Palm Springs, I paid a visit to my oldest friend on the planet,

George Whittinghill, KF6UBV. He is a real rocket scientist, and has a company in Camarillo, CA called Whittinghill Aerospace that he runs with the help of his son Ian, KF6ITX, and daughter Catherine. They build and test rockets for commercial space, and by an accident of timing were going to test-fire a 60,000 lb thrust hybrid rocket motor in Mojave the Monday after I arrived. With little hesitation I extended my trip by a day so that I could see it. What an incredible thing it was, even from half a mile away! I was able to climb up on the test stand and look into the nozzle both before and after the firing, and got a complete tour and explanation of all of the rocket motor and test systems. I also got to spend quite a bit of time with Mir, Shuttle, and ISS astronaut Mike Foale, who was part of the team. We had a great time discussing some fun technical topics, continuing on in e-mail after the trip. It was an unforgettable experience.

For those of you who made it to the 10th Street Range for the PAARApink, thank you for coming and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. I think we had about 18 people attend. There was some concern that the lunch BBQ might have to contend with a downpour, but all we got was a few sprinkles. We got in some serious hot-lead therapy, shredding a whole stack of paper and some big pieces of cardboard too. There were a nice collection of handguns (both semi-auto and wheel guns), small caliber rifles, and shotguns. There were experienced shooters, and some who had not shot in years. We tried our best to accommodate everyone, even if they didn't bring a firearm. I think it was a real hoot, and I asked our sponsor, Carla, WA6UBE, if we could do it again. She is checking with the board of the Santa Clara Valley Rifle Club to see if a September date might be available. Keep your calendar open.

That's it for me for this month. Don't forget the USS Hornet tour coming up on the 30th of April, and the PAARA meeting on April 1st. CU AT THE NEXT PAARA EVENT DE K6WX

Kristen (K6WX)

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX 510-703-4942 kristen@alum.mit.edu
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Director ('16-'17)	Rob Riley, KI6INR 650 799-1607 (c) ki6inr@arrl.net
Director ('16)	Larry Rebarchik N6DB 650 465-8210 (c) n6db@arrl.net
Director ('16)	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM 650 255-2454 ki6ldm@arrl.net

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com
Database.....	Jim Thielemann, K6SV 408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net
Chaplain.....	Rick Melrose K6RDM 408-341-9070 K6RDM@yahoo.com
Public Affairs.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV
Station Trustee K6OTA.....	Ron Chester, W6AZ
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV
Fund Raising Coordinator.	Bob Korte, KD6KYT 408 396 4745 bob@rgktechsales.com
Badge Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650-367-6200 dteter@wcwi.com
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Raffle Coordinator.....	Jim Rice, K6AK 650-851-2274
Ticket Master	Marty Wayne, W6NEV 408-246-7531
Field Day Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep	Rolf Klubo, N6NFI 650-856-2748 n6nfi@arrl.net
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VE Exams

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room, 4th Saturday 10:30 am each month and De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org> or Contact Al, WB6IMX@att.net

Electronics Flea Market

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O. — Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations
Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6am–2pm
Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761
Contact: <http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See our website at <http://www.paara.org> for more information or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm
Contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month,
Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM
Contact: <http://ncdx.org> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

QCWA Chapter 11

Northern California Quarter Century Wireless Association
Meets third Wednesday monthly at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City @ 11:30 AM.
Guests are welcome. Saturday morning net on 146.850 MHz, PL 114.8

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Texas Instruments Building E conference room in Santa Clara.
Contact: <http://50MhzandUp.org>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System
Meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz
Contact: <http://specsn.org> or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N) Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.
Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
Contact: <http://www.gsl.net/scarra> or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334
ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)
contact: <http://www.svecs.net> or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

TEARS — The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building & FCC exam testing.
KV6R repeater under construction.
Contact: AA6T@ARRL.NET

Most members are Extra Class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF:	52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss	UHF:	441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
	147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss		223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss
	223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss		1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, N6FFC@Juno.com, or N6FFC@ARRL.NET

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: <http://santalclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924 fshensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor)



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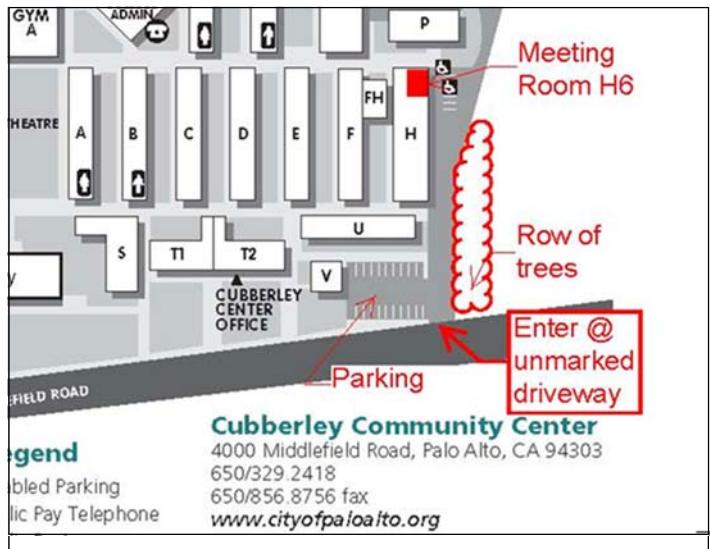
If you would like to order a badge, see
Doug Teter, KG6LWE.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session
every Monday evening at 8:30pm
on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week	Control Operator
1 st	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	Rob KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road

<http://www.foto.mail.ru/list/shkurkin>

Vladimir Vladimirovich

SHKURKIN

Editing and Translation Services
English-Russian-English

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**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park
California 94026-0911**

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAGraphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the
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RADIO IN THE PARK

9:30am - 12:30pm
Check Back In the
Spring

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W 121° 57.297

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Photos: jpg, png or tiff

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Manager: Jim Thielemann, K6SV,

408-839-6815, thielem@pacbell.net

PAARAGraphs Ad Rates

PAARAGraphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).

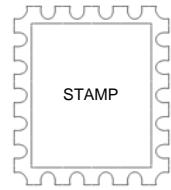
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAGraphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.

All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. **Give payment and copy to Ron Chester, W6AZ**

PAARAgraphs — April 2016

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



STAMP

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PAARAGraphs Newsletter
P.O. Box 911
Menlo Park, California 94026**

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